

Volunteer Role Description



Role Title	Volunteer Gardener
Role Location	The Myton Hospices – Coventry, Rugby & Warwick
Role Days/Hours	Flexible days and times to suit availability (within office hours)
Responsible To	Estates Team Leader

The Myton Hospices – *Enhancing lives, empowering people*

At The Myton Hospices we believe that everyone matters for every single moment of their life and we focus on enhancing life when cure is no longer an option. We care for people living with a wide range of terminal illnesses, and their families, right from the point of diagnosis, and when the time comes we believe people have the right to a good, natural death, the way they want it to be with their loved ones supported.

Last year, despite the challenges of Covid-19 which limited our ability to offer some of our services, we still supported 1,400 people and their families, in our hospices, via our patient & family support services, and in the community through Myton at Home.

We are a charity and we have to raise £7.8 million this year to continue providing our services free of charge. We can't do it without amazing people like you. Volunteers play a vital role in the services that we are able to offer – they are highly valued and we just couldn't operate without them!

Our Values:

- ☆ **One Myton**, one team, one goal – delivering holistic care
- ☆ **Professional** in all we do
- ☆ **Respect** and dignity for all
- ☆ **Value** every individual and ourselves

The Volunteering Opportunity – *How you can make a difference*

To be part of a team that strives to maintain Hospice gardens to an excellent standard. The garden is enjoyed and used by our patients and their families for recreation and contemplation purposes, to help spiritual well being, and a place to sit and reflect whatever the season.

Key Duties – *What your role will involve*

1. Gardening Maintenance

Tasks may vary on a weekly or seasonal basis and could include:

- ☆ Soil cultivation, digging, forking, mulching, watering, raking, weeding, de-heading, edging, pruning, bed preparation, planting and pots maintenance
- ☆ Grass and hedge cutting by safe use of the petrol mower and strimmers or hedge cutters (grass cutting is not required at Rugby)
- ☆ To keep the tool shed clean and tidy and to ensure all gardening equipment is kept secure
- ☆ To keep the gardens and footpaths clear and free from litter at all times

☆ **The time that you give as a volunteer will make a huge difference...** ☆

- ☆ To leave the garden tidy after working in it by gathering up any cuttings or prunings, and removing to the designated area for transport to the local authority recycling facility.

2. Garden Planning

- ☆ To maintain the garden within budgetary restrictions
- ☆ To assist with seasonal planning and future development of garden projects where appropriate.

3. Public Engagement

- ☆ Engage in conversation with patients, families or carers to encourage interest in the gardens and respond to any of their queries
- ☆ Engage with visiting corporate or community gardeners and facilitate a positive working relationship.

4. Health & Safety

- ☆ Ensure compliance with Myton wide and garden specific Health & Safety regulations and procedures
- ☆ Ensure the safety of all visitors to the garden e.g. be conscious of tool position and location at all times to avoid accidents
- ☆ Respond to accidents and incidents as they occur, referring as necessary to a manager or seeking appropriate assistance
- ☆ Report any garden hazards to a member of the Estates Team, or Day Hospice team at Rugby e.g. cracked paving, bees nests, rodent activity etc.

Skills & Qualities – Will the role suit me? Yes, if you are...

- ☆ Enthusiastic and enjoy gardening
- ☆ Knowledgeable about basic gardening skills e.g. pruning, weeding, planting etc
- ☆ Knowledgeable about the use of gardening tools and techniques
- ☆ Willing to attend training and supervision when required e.g. back care training due to the nature of this role which requires standing, bending, stretching and working at awkward angles
- ☆ Organised and have the ability to plan
- ☆ Able to recognise limitations and work within set boundaries
- ☆ Able to understand and keep confidentiality
- ☆ Respectful of others and their diversity
- ☆ Passionate about helping families in your local community.

Benefits – What can Myton offer me as a volunteer?

- ☆ An opportunity to make a difference and support your local community
- ☆ A chance to develop new gardening skills, techniques and experiences to add to your CV
- ☆ Training, as and when available, relevant to your role
- ☆ Reimbursement of your travel expenses within the boundaries of Coventry & Warwickshire.



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